

I understand that the FCC is considering easing restrictions on broadcast ownership restrictions. While it's good for the FCC to review its policies from time to time, this is a policy that we need to continue diversity in our programming. In fact, the FCC should not be considering easing restrictions - it should be considering even tighter limits on broadcast ownership.

The massive consolidation in the radio industry alone has been harmful to the general public by diluting diversity in programming and de-localizing programming. Now that many companies own dozens of radio stations across the country, they frequently cut corners by syndicating content - which means that radio listeners do not get the same quality or quantity of local coverage in news nor do they enjoy a diverse range of programming. It also has had the effect of greatly thinning the number of jobs available in radio, which cannot be good for local economies or in developing a diverse pool of talent.

I hope that the FCC commissioners will be wise enough to turn back the trend of relaxing ownership rules and start setting lower caps on the number of radio and television stations one company can own in one market.

At most, a company should be able to own one AM and one FM station in a medium-sized market, and no more than three stations in a large market -- no more. The argument that it's better for businesses to own a larger number of stations is not relevant. The FCC's first mission is to protect the public interest, and ensure that the content that is broadcast over publically-owned airwaves is diverse and meets the greater interests of the public.

While radio and television can certainly be profitable businesses, let us not forget that the public at large grants the use of the airwaves to those companies. It is our interests that should come first.